

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 ACDA-12
IO-13 L-03 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-07 SOE-02 DOE-11
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R 061307Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8550
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMCONSUL MADRAS

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

BRUSSELS FOR PRESIDENTIAL PARTY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PARM, ETECH, US, IN
SUBJECT: FURTHER ON NUCLEAR MATTERS

REF: NEW DELHI 307

1. THE DELHI PRESS JANUARY 6 FEATURES, ACCURATELY, THE PRIME
MINISTER'S REMARKS TO A VISITING CODEL, REITERATING INDIA'S
NUCLEAR POLICY AND WILLINGNESS TO SUFFER IF URANIUM SUPPLIES
ARE CUT OFF (REFTEL).
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2. ACCORDING TO AN INDISER PAGE STORY IN "INDIAN EXPRESS"
JANUARY 6, WHICH WE HAVE NOT SEEN ELSEWHERE, FOREIGN MINISTER
VAJPAYEE SAID IN AHMEDABAD YESTERDAY THAT PRESIDENT CARTER WAS TOLD
"HE HAD NO RIGHT" TO ASK INDIA NOT TO PRODUCE NUCLEAR ARMS
AS LONG AS THE US CONTINUED TO DO SO. VAJPAYEE REPORTEDLY ADDED
THAT INDIA HAD MADE ITS OWN DECISION NOT TO PRODUCE NUCLEAR ARMS

AND "WOULD NOT LIKE OTHERS TO TELL US WHAT WE SHOULD DO". HE ALSO CHARGED THAT PRIOR TO THE CARTER VISIT, GOVT DETRACTORS HAD MOUNTED A PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN THAT INDIA WOULD SUCCUMB TO US PRESSURE AND COMPROMISE NATIONAL INTERESTS BY CHANGING ITS NUCLEAR POLICY. INDIA, HE SAID WOULD NOT YIELD TO OUTSIDE PRESSURE AND HAD TOLD THIS TO THE SOVIET UNION ALSO. "THE HINDUSTAN TIMES" ALSO REPORTS THAT VAJPAYEE SAID THAT THE DIFFERENCES ON NUCLEAR ISSUES WHICH PERSISTED WERE NATURAL AND THAT OTHERWISE INDO-US RELATIONS HAD IMPROVED REMARKABLY.

3. THE PRESS ALSO LISTS THE NUCLEAR ISSUE AS AMONG THOSE TO BE DISCUSSED BY PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN WHO ARRIVES IN DELHI TODAY. B.K. TIWARI, REPORTING FROM LONDON IN THE "INDIAN EXPRESS", SAID THAT CALLAGHAN WOULD NOT MAKE AN ISSUE OF THE NPT "ALTHOUGH HE WOULD LIKE TO SUCCEED WHERE PRESIDENT CARTER HAS FAILED". TIWARI ALSO SAID THAT CALLAGHAN WAS "APPARENTLY PLAYING TO MR. DESAI'S PSYCHOLOGY" WHEN HE TOLD BBC TV RECENTLY THAT HE WAS PLEASED WITH DESAI'S ANTI-TESTING POSITION AND THAT INDIAN WAS IN A POSITION "TO GIVE VERY CONSIDERABLE LEADERSHIP" ON THE CTB ISSUE. "THE HINDU" JANUARY 5 REPORTED THAT THE NUCLEAR ISSUE WOULD BE DISCUSSED BY CALLAGHAN "IN A MORE RELAXED MANNER WITH NO IMPLIED THREATS OF 'COLD AND BLUNT' REACTION." THE "HINDU" CORRESPONDENT SAID THAT CALLAGHAN WAS "BOUND TO SPEAK WITH MUCH GREATER SOPHISTICATION" AND WOULD TAKE THE APPROACH THAT MR. DESAI CAN BE TRUSTED TO KEEP HIS WORD REGARDING TESTING BUT THAT IT WOULD HELP TOWARD A NEW CODE OF CONDUCT FOR AVOIDING "THE PERILS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF PROLIFERATION" IF DESAI COULD BE PERSUADED TO TAKE AN "INTERNATIONALLY MORE RECOGNIZABLE POSITION".

4. SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS PUBLISHED A SAMACHAR REPORT SUMMARIZING US EDITORIAL REACTION TO THE NUCLEAR ASPECT OF THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT, INCLUDING THE COMMENTS OF THE WASHINGTON POST, CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR AND THE BALTIMORE SUN. IN THEIR OWN EDITORIALS ON THE NUCLEAR QUESTION, NEWSPAPERS HERE HAVE FOCUSED ON DELINEATING THE INDIAN POSITION ON THE NPT, FULL SCOPE SAFEGUARDS, AND FUEL SUPPLY FOR TARAPUR. THE PRESIDENT'S OFFER OF HEAVY WATER HAS BEEN MENTIONED ONLY IN PASSING EXCEPT FOR A SAMACHAR REPORT PUBLISHED JANUARY 4 THAT THE OFFER WAS A "SPONTANEOUS" ONE AND NOT IN RESPONSE TO AN INDIAN REQUEST. CITING "KNOWLEDGEABLE SOURCES," SAMACHAR SAID THAT DETAILS OF THE OFFER ARE YET TO BE SETTLED AND THAT IT IS NOT KNOWN IF THE US WOULD PROPOSE SAFEGUARDS BEYOND THOSE INDIA HAS ALREADY AGREED TO FOR THE SOVIET HEAVY WATER SUPPLY. IF THE US DOES SO, ACCORDING TO SAMACHAR, "IT COULD PROVE TO BE A HITCH, DEPENDING ON THE NATURE OF THE SUGGESTION". MR. DESAI'S POSITION AGAINST ACCEPTING ANY SAFEGUARDS IN REGARD TO TARAPUR FUEL WHICH WOULD INFRINGE ON INDIAN SOVEREIGNTY WOULD ALSO APPLY TO ANY HEAVY WATER SUPPLY, THE ARTICLE CONCLUDED GOHEEN

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